driving license at the age of 29 get the maximum validity of 20 years and at the age of 49 their driving licenses can be reviewed only for one year and again they have to run to the transprot office and face the trouble to get their driving licenses renewed at the age of 50;

(b) whether Government are considering to modifiy the rules to avoid this hardship;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Section 14(2)(b) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, applicable in respect of driving licence other than transport vehicles provides that the driving licence, either orginally issued or renewed shall be effective for a period of 20 years or until the date on which such person attains the age of 50 years, whichever is earlier. Further, if a person attains the age of 50 years on the date of issue or as the case may be, renewal thereof, shall be effective for a period of 5 years from the date of such issue or renewal.

The implementation of provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 made thereunder, is the responsiblity of the concerned State Government. It is correct that if a person of 49 years of age approaches State transport Authority, renewal of driving licence shall be for one year.

Amendment of provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 made thereunder is a continuous ongoing process. Anomalies on coming to notice are dealt in consultation with the stakeholders and various State Governments.

Speeding up construction of NHs in Uttaranchal

970. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to speed up construction of Highways in backward, hilly and remote areas of Uttaranchal in respect of projects

which are part of the 3rd phase National Highways Development Project; and

(b) if so, the backward regions of the State which are likely to be benefited by the above decision with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The stretch of National Highway Nos. 58 and 72 from Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal Border to Dehradun is included in 3rd Phase of National Highway Development Project (NHDP). The stretch is included in Phase III-A and is further divided in two stretches *i.e.* Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal Border to Haridwar and Haridwar to Dehradun. Bids for four laning of NH-58 from Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) to Haridwar (Uttaranchal) on BOT basis which includes the stretch of Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal Border to Haridwar are to be invited once again by NHAI. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the stretch from Haridwar to Dehradun, which passes through Rajaji National Park is in advance stage of completion. For taking up the work in this stretch, clearance of National Board of Wild Life and Hon'ble Supreme Court is required.

(b) The above National Highway connects Uttaranchal with Delhi and as such all areas of Uttaranchal including backward and hilly areas will be benefited.

Trauma Care Centre for victims of highway accident people

971. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yearly an estimated 1.27 lakh people are seriously injured on the roads of which 80,000 people die due to accidents on the Highways in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, Government's response towards the increasing number of accidents on Highways;

(c) whether Government are seriously considering to set up Integrated Highway Trauma Care Centre for providing instant trauma care to accident victims in various districts particularly in Maharashtra State; and